

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06
SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ECE
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ECE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT

REF: (A) STATE 280014, (B) STATE 281344, (C) GENEVA 10481

1. STANOVNIK HELD SECOND INFORMAL MEETING ON
MODALITIES OF POSSIBLE ECE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON EN-
VIRONMENT NOV. 25. PARTICIPANTS WERE AMBASSADORS OF
FRG, BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GDR, SWEDEN, BYLORUSSIA,
GREECE, YUGOSLAVIA, HUNGARY AND OFFICERS FROM MISSIONS
OF SWITZERLAND, CANADA AND THE U.S. MAJOR DISCUSSION
CONCERNED WHETHER MEETING WOULD BE TWO OR THREE STAGES.
STANOVNIK, IN INTRODUCING DISCUSSION, TOOK BASICALLY
NEUTRAL STANCE ON THIS ISSUE BUT LEFT CLEAR IMPLICATION
SECRETARIAT SEES NO OVERRIDING NEED FOR INITIAL HIGH-LEVEL
"KICK-OFF" MEETING TO LAUNCH PROCESS SINCE IT COULD BE
CONSIDERED THAT 33RD SESSION OF ECE WOULD PLAY THIS ROLE
IF IT DECIDES ON CONFERENCE AND SETS PREPARATORY WORK
IN MOTION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT UNLIKE CSCE, WHICH HAS
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BEEEN CITED AS MODEL AND PRECEDENT FOR THREE STAGE
APPROACH, THERE IS ALREADY EXISTING ORGANIZATION - ECE -
DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND IT IS CAPABLE OF
ORGANIZING PREPARATORY WORK. CSCE ON OTHER HAND HAD TO
START FROM SCRATCH AT FIRST HELSINKI MEETING. ALL EE
REPS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THREE STAGE APPROACH. BASIC
ARGUMENTATION WAS THAT CONFERENCE WOULD BE DEALING WITH

MATTERS WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENTS TO PUT INTO EFFECT AND THEREFORE IT ESSENTIAL THAT STRONG HIGH-LEVEL IMPETUS BE GIVEN TO PROCESS AT THE OUTSET. WESTERN REPS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM FOR NEED FOR INITIAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. US (BRUNGART) POINTED OUT THAT RESOLUTION PASSED AT ECE 32ND SESSION CLEARLY ENVISAGED ONLY TWO STAGES IF THERE WAS TO BE SUCH A MEETING -- PREPARATORY WORK AT TECHNICAL LEVEL TO BE FOLLOWED BY HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO TAKE CONCRETE DECISIONS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT US DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT CSCE THREE STAGE PRECEDENT AT ALL APPLICABLE TO PRESENT SITUATION AND THAT IDEA OF STARTING WITH POLITICAL LEVEL MEETING IS NEW COMPLEXITY WHICH RUNS COUNTER TO VIEWS EXPRESSED BY EAST EUROPEANS THAT WORK SHOULD BE ADVANCED RAPIDLY.

2. SOME WESTERN REPS SUGGESTED THAT ECE 33RD SESSION COULD BE CONSIDERED A HIGH-LEVEL KICK OFF AND SWEDISH AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE MINISTERS ATTEND THAT MEETING. EASTERN REPS INDICATED THEY DID NOT CONSIDER REGULAR 33RD SESSION WOULD FILL THE BILL.

3. CONCERNING ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, STANOVNIK INDICATED THAT EVERYONE AGREED ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION AS TOPIC, AND THAT THERE ALMOST SEEMED TO BE CONSENSUS ON NO WASTE/LOW WASTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TECHNOLOGY. HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE CONTINUES TO FEEL STRONGLY THAT WATER POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES SHOULD ALSO BE ON AGENDA. BULGARIAN REP, APPARENTLY SPEAKING FOR ALL EES, EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT SEPARATE WATER ITEM BUT INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATION OF WATER POLLUTION UNDER TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION TOPIC. HE TOOK LINE THAT IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THREE SEPARATE JURIDICAL INSTRUMENTS TO RESULT FROM HIGH-LEVEL MEETING, BUT THAT THERE COULD OF COURSE BE MAYBE AS MANY AS FOUR OR FIVE DOCUMENTS EMERGING EVEN IF THERE WERE ONLY TWO AGENDA ITEMS. (NOTE: STANOVNIK REPEATED HIS VIEW THAT TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION ITEM SHOULD LEAD TO A "CONVENTION", LOW WASTE/NO WASTE ITEM TO "PRINCIPLES" AND WATER ITEM TO A "DECLARATION". HIS DESCRIPTION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO LATTER KINDS OF ACTIONS WAS FUZZY. END NOTE.) GREEK REPRESENTATIVE WAS ONLY PARTICIPANT WHO SUPPORTED WATER ITEM AND EVEN HE INDICATED HE WAS DOING SO ON PERSONAL BASIS. SECRETARIAT SAID PREPARATIONS FOR ITEM ON WATER POLLUTION COULD BE MADE WITH NO ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY COST.

4. EASTERN REPS (AND STANOVNIK) CONSTANTLY REFERRED TO "MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONFERENCE". FRG REP, SUPPORTED BY US, POINTED OUT THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN DECIDED ABOUT A MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THAT TEXT OF RESOLUTION AT 32ND SESSION HAD REFERRED TO A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. EASTERN REPS ARGUED THAT IN THEIR VIEW THIS MEANT MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL OR HIGHER.

5. CONCERNING DURATION OF MEETING, STANOVNIK INDICATED THAT HIS EXPECTATION WAS FOR TWO OR THREE DAY MEETING, AND IN GENEVA. HE POINTED TO COMPLEXITIES AND ADDITIONAL COSTS THAT WOULD ARISE IF THERE WERE DESIRE TO HOLD MEETING AT OTHER SITE. SORENSON

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